

**CAPSULE SUMMARY**  
**BA-2372**  
**Blacksmith's House**  
**10113 Falls Road**  
**Baltimore, Baltimore County**  
**Ca. 1877**  
**Private**

The dwelling is located in Rockland Village in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. Constructed circa 1877, the house first appears on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas of Baltimore County. The Rockland community was originally settled by the Johnson family, who constructed a grist mill in the early 19th century and a number of stone dwellings to house the mill workers. Although the community's economic activity began with the grist mill, it was supplanted by the Rockland Bleach and Dye Works, which were established in 1831. Brothers James, Thomas, and Robert Wright founded the Rockland Bleach and Dye Works. Their bleaching formula, which included cornstarch, castor oil, chlorine, votriol, and pulverized talc, brought great financial success to the company. The Rockland Bleach & Dye Works remains one of the oldest corporations in Baltimore County having been in business for the past 170 years.

Set on a random rubble stone foundation, the wood frame dwelling is clad in square-butt wood shingles. Rising two stories in height, the Shingle style building is three-bays wide on the façade or west elevation. The façade is dominated by a projecting gable bay, a hipped dormer, and an inset porch. The gable bay holds a 2/2 window at each story and the gable end is clad in variegated wood shingles. The inset porch is supported by square wood posts and has a square-edged balustrade and brick pier foundation. Beneath the porch are the four-panel single-leaf door and a 2/2 window. The hipped roof dormer rises above the steep roof slope of the porch and holds two 1/1 vinyl replacement windows. The house has a cross gable roof with wood shingles and a central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap. On the rear of the house, there is an interior end brick chimney and a two-bay wide porch with a shed roof.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2372

### 1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

other

Blacksmith's House

### 2. Location

street and number 10113 Falls Road

not for publication

city, town Baltimore

vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Elizabeth Dougherty Obrecht

street and number 1003 Boyce Avenue

telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore

state MD

zip code 21204

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse

liber 8296 folio 350

city, town Towson

tax map 69

tax parcel 1144

tax ID number 1900003607

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2372

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The dwelling is situated at the intersection of Falls Road and Old Court Road in Rockland Village in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. Set on a random rubble stone foundation, the wood frame dwelling is clad in square-butt wood shingles. Rising two stories in height, the circa 1877 Shingle style building is three-bays wide on the façade or west elevation. The façade is dominated by a projecting gable bay, a hipped dormer, and an inset porch. The gable bay holds a 2/2 window at each story and the gable end is clad in variegated wood shingles. The inset porch is supported by square wood posts and has a square-edged balustrade and brick pier foundation. Beneath the porch are the four-panel single-leaf door and a 2/2 window. The hipped roof dormer rises above the steep roof slope of the porch and holds two 1/1 vinyl replacement windows. The house has a cross gable roof with wood shingles and a central interior brick chimney with a corbeled cap. On the rear of the house, there is an interior end brick chimney and a two-bay wide porch with a shed roof.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2372

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1877 ca. **Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1877 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The dwelling is located in Rockland Village in the Ninth District of Baltimore County. Constructed circa 1877, the house first appears on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas of Baltimore County. The Rockland community was originally settled by the Johnson family, who constructed a grist mill in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and a number of stone dwellings to house the mill workers.<sup>1</sup> Although the community's economic activity began with the grist mill, it was supplanted by the Rockland Bleach and Dye Works, which were established in 1831. Brothers James, Thomas, and Robert Wright founded the Rockland Bleach and Dye Works. Their bleaching formula, which included cornstarch, castor oil, chlorine, votriol, and pulverized talc, brought great financial success to the company.<sup>2</sup> The Rockland Bleach & Dye Works remains one of the oldest corporations in Baltimore County having been in business for the past 170 years. Rockland has become the world's largest manufacturer of drapery liners. Its success is based largely on the patented fabric Roc-lon®.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "History of the Area." Located on the Internet on May 22, 2001 at <http://www.bcpl.net/~ruxrider/area-history.html>.

<sup>2</sup> Neal A. Brooks and Eric G. Rockel, *A History of Baltimore County*, (Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, 1978), p. 195.

<sup>3</sup> "News Makers." Located on the Internet on May 22, 2001 at <http://www.dwcdesignet.com/DWC/Jan'00/newsmk.html>.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2372

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.01 Acres  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Cockeysville Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The dwelling is located at 10113 Falls Road in the Rockland community of the Ninth District in Baltimore County. The dwelling has been associated with Tax Map 69, Parcel 1144 since its construction circa 1877.

## 11. Form Prepared by

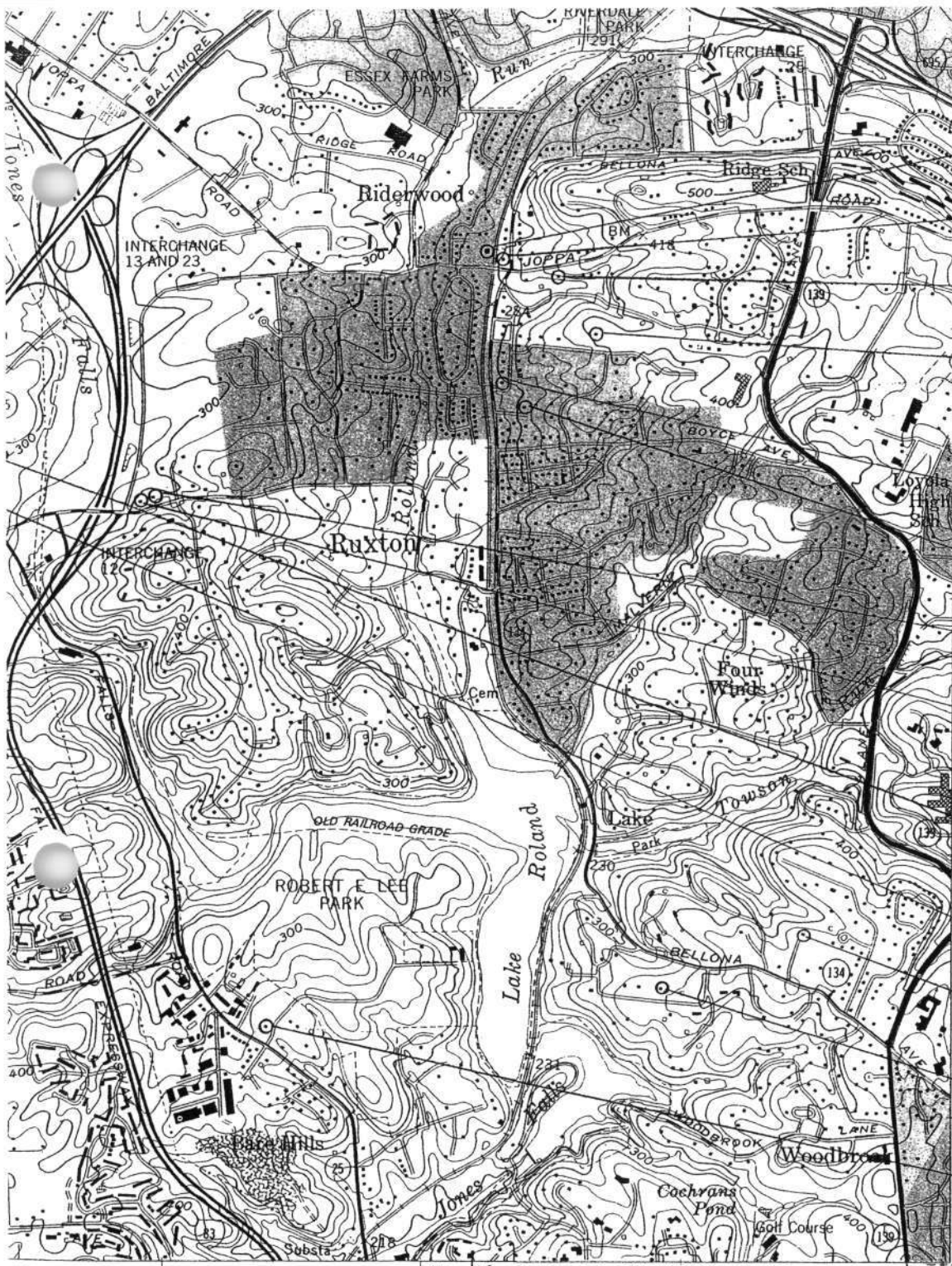
name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 21, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





- 25'
- 4364
- BA-2141  
1006 WEST JOPPA ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2359  
1000 WEST JOPPA ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2425  
1517 WEST JOPPA ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-1775  
1400 WALNUT HILL LANE  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- 4362
- BA-2202  
2004 RUXTON ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2203  
2008 RUXTON ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY
- BA-2042
- 4361
- BA-2372  
1013 FALLS ROAD  
BALTIMORE  
BALTIMORE COUNTY

40' 358 359000m E 176°37'30" 39°22'30"

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1986  
BALTIMORE (JUNC. U.S. 1) 4.5 MI.

#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- |                    |              |                 |       |
|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|
| Heavy-duty         | —————        | Light-duty      | ————— |
| Medium-duty        | —————        | Unimproved dirt | ----- |
| ○ Interstate Route | ○ U.S. Route | ○ State Route   |       |



**COCKEYSVILLE, MD.**  
39076-D6-TF-024

1957  
PHOTOREVISED 1986  
DMA 5662 I NW—SERIES V833

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1983 and other sources. This information not field checked and edited 1986

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

(BALTIMORE EAST)  
5662 / SE



BA-2372

10113 FALLS ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

SOUTHWEST CORNER

1 OF 2





BA-2372

10113 FALLS ROAD

BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

APRIL 2001

MD SHPO

NORTHEAST CORNER

2 OF 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
Washington, D.C. 20240

BA-2372

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION  
APPLICATION — PART 1  
(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

## PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: Blacksmith's HouseAddress of property: Street 10113 Falls RoadCity Brooklandville County Baltimore County State Maryland Zip Code 21022Name of historic district in which property is located: Rockland National Register District2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:  
(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary)

See attached

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
(use reverse side if necessary)

See attached

Date of construction (if known): ca 1880 ☒ Original site ☐ Moved Date of alterations (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:

Name Ms. Diane W. ParkerStreet 911 St. Georges RoadCity BaltimoreState Maryland Zip Code 21210Telephone Number (during day): Area Code 301-433-6891

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am owner of the property described above

Signature Diane W. Parker Date 11-29-81

## For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the district.The structure ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60).The structure is located in a district which ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6). ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60), and ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to contribute to the character of said district.Signature [Signature]  
State Historic Preservation OfficerDate 2-19-83  
3-1-83

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

☐ is hereby certified a historic structure☐ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheetSignature \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

# DESCRIPTION

The Blacksmith's house is a small, two story frame dwelling, built on a stone foundation which forms a partial basement. The building is sited directly off Falls Road on the east, just to the north of the stone Blacksmith Shop (currently a garage).

The massing of the building forms an irregular "T" with the heat of the "T" sited to the north. An open front porch, and a rear porch (which has been partially enclosed) shed off the basic structure. In front, a double-windowed dormer with a hipped roof projects over the front porch area.

The windows on the front and sides are of Victorian vintage, 2 lites over 2 lites. The dormer windows are one over one. An upper story rear window is six over six (probably a replacement). The three major windows in front have operable louvered wood shutters, painted green.

The exterior is a stained cedar shingle. The shingles are coursed throughout, with a + 5½" exposure, except at the peak of the projecting front bay, where the same square edged shingles are laid in a decorative "fish-scale" pattern. The wood trim surrounding the shingles is painted white. A small brick chimney with a corbled top projects approximately four feet above the green asphalt shingle roof.

The first floor contains a living room, dining room, kitchen and enclosed porch. The second floor has two bedrooms, and a bath. There is a partial basement with an outside entry, dirt floors covered with wood. The heat for the house is supplied by a ductless gas furnace located in the basement. A floor grate on the first floor at the foot of the stairs serve the system.

Typical finished throughout the house are painted plaster walls and ceilings, and softwood pine floors. Wood trim remains around most doors and windows, of modest design.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Village of Rockland, its association with the Rockland Mill, and its significance historically and architecturally, are well described in the National Register Nomination form dated 26 July, 1972. The significance of the Blacksmith's house to the district is substantial from both an architectural and contextural vantage point.

The house was probably designed by the builder rather than by an architect (due in part to the proximity of the stair to the front entry) and demonstrates a great affinity to the "Cottage Residence" acturesqueness described by Andrew Jackson Downing. Downing's designs VII (for a small cottage or gate lodge), XIII (for a small cottage or toll gate house), and XVII (for a "plain house") all show characteristic plan layouts and elevation of the genre embodied in the Blacksmith's house. The second floor of one of Downing's gate house designs is particularly sympathetic with the house at Rockland (see page 189 of 4th Edition of Cottage Residences....., New York, 1873).

For Rockland and its history, the house represents the last significant architectural style employed at the village. In its history, it has housed the blacksmith of the village, tenant farmers of the Rockland property, and members of Johnson family.

FEB 7 1983

MARYLAND HISTORICAL  
TRUST

The Blacksmith's House, Rockland, Brooklandville, Maryland

### Significance

The Blacksmith's House in Rockland Village holds historic and architectural significance to the overall village enclave. The house demonstrates, with considerable taste and appropriateness, how an early nineteenth century mill village added to its housing stock in the latter half of that century.

Earlier structures in the village (please refer to the National Register nomination form for the description of the village), generally of stone or of log construction, could not from an economical or practical standpoint provide the proper precedent for this later construction. This did not however prevent the builder from producing a structure which did reinforce the village scale and streetscape, while at the same time exhibiting many of the more "avant guard" design preferences emerging in this country in the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

Contexturally, the house reinforces the village scene. Its siting, tucked between the stone Blacksmith Shop (J) and the log house (K), maintains and accents the very strong, close relationship to Falls Road previously established by the village. The dwelling's two story massing and the scale of the floor plan are in harmony with the neighboring structures. The shingle material of the house, and its stone foundation, recall the materials of all of the village.

The design of the house, however, demonstrates how architectural details and materials were evolving in this country, and how they could be assimilated into an existing community of dwellings. Shingles were put on the walls as well as on the roof, and in a decorative as well as a utilitarian fashion. Dormers could be flaired, forming parts of octagons, as well as be rectilinear. In fact, the dwelling represents a modest builder's attempt at producing a dwelling in keeping with Andrew Jackson Downing's thoughts. The size and arrangements of the rooms, the "T" plan, and the centralized stair are in sympathy with Downing's design VII (for a small cottage or gate house), and design XIII (for a small cottage or toll gate house), and design XVII (for a "plain house"). The second floor of one of Downing's gatehouses is strikingly close to the house at Rockland (see page 189 of 4th edition of Cottage Residences..., New York, 1873.) The Blacksmith's house at Rockland is the village's "villa in the cottage style."

For Rockland, the Blacksmith's house represents the last significant architectural style employed at the village. In its history, it has housed the blacksmith of the village, tenant farmers, and members of the Johnson family. The house demonstrates how an early mill village was able to grow while not destroying the scale and character of its neighborhood. In fact, it reinforces them.





Blacksmith House, from the North, looking South along Falls Road.

The dark shingled Blacksmith's house can be seen on the left of the photograph, south of the "log House" Note the way the building fills in the road frontage between the log house and the blacksmith's shop, barely seen to the south of the subject property. Note the impact of the gable roof on the northern half of the Blacksmith's house, relating to the gable roof of the log house (a  $90^{\circ}$  shift). The same relationship exists on the right side of the road with the stone row gable to the north of the  $90^{\circ}$  shifted general store gable. (seen in photo above.)



Blacksmith's House looking from the Northwest.

The fronts of the houses line up along the road edge. Note that the site sketch in the National Register submission inaccurately shows this house out of line with its neighbors. This is not the case. The site slopes down between the log house and the blacksmith's shop. The roof lines of the house help emphasize this stepping with the south gable parallel and the north gable perpendicular to the shed of the shop below.



facade

